



# **FACT SHEET**

## **PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM**

Washington State Military Department

Emergency Management Division

Camp Murray, WA 98430

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, authorized by Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), provides technical and financial assistance to states, local and tribal governments to assist in the implementation of cost-effective hazard mitigation measures designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property. The State Emergency Management Division administers this program for the State of Washington.

Annual funding depends upon Congressional appropriation and direction; in recent years, about \$100 million has been available on a *nationally competitive basis* for mitigation plans and projects. For FY 2011, the application window opened June 1, 2010. EMD uses a two-step application process; only those jurisdictions that submitted letters of intent to apply for grant funding by May 14, 2010 are eligible to apply for grant assistance.

### **ELIGIBLE PLANS, PROJECTS:**

**Mitigation Planning:** Developing a new hazard mitigation plan, upgrading an existing FEMA-approved plan, or conducting a comprehensive review and update of an existing FEMA-approved plan, are eligible activities. The result must be a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan prior to the period of performance that meets planning criteria outlined in 44 CFR Part 201. Funding for new plans is limited to \$800,000 federal share, while funding for revising existing plans is limited to \$400,000 federal share.

**Mitigation Projects:** Multi-hazard mitigation projects must focus on natural hazards but also may address hazards caused by non-natural forces. Funding is limited to a \$3 million federal share per project application. Applicants must have an adopted, FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan by the federal application deadline on December 3, 2010 and at the date of grant award to be eligible to receive project grant funding.

Among the eligible mitigation projects are (see FY 2011 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Guidance, pages 11-18 for details):

- Acquisition of hazard-prone property for conversion to open space in perpetuity;
- Elevation of existing public or private structures to avoid coastal or riverine flooding;
- Dry floodproofing of non-residential and historic residential structures.
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities to reduce or eliminate the risk of future damage and to protect building inhabitants;
- Measures to reduce risk to existing utility systems, roads and bridges.
- Minor localized flood reduction projects such as modification of culverts and floodgates, minor floodwall systems or ring levees to protect individual structures or facilities, and storm water management projects to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from flood hazards and that do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system;
- Soil stabilization projects to reduce risk to structures and infrastructure from erosion and landslides.
- Wildfire mitigation such as preparation of defensible space around buildings, application of ignition resistant construction, or reduction of hazardous fuels.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Projects should be technically feasible and meet the following federal and state criteria:

1. Be cost-effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering resulting from a major disaster, and have a benefit-cost ratio of 1.0 or greater.
2. Be in conformance with the current FEMA-approved local and State Hazard Mitigation Plan;

3. Solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a solution where there is assurance that the project as a whole will be completed.
4. Be in conformance with federal floodplain management and wetlands protection regulations.
5. Not duplicate benefits available from another source for the same purpose, including assistance that another Federal agency or program has the primary authority to provide.
6. Be located in a community participating in, and in good standing with, the National Flood Insurance Program, and in a community in compliance with the state's Growth Management Act.
7. Meet the requirements of applicable Federal, State, and local laws.

### **INELIGIBLE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES:**

Ineligible planning activities (see FY 2011 HMA Program Guidance, pages 11-18):

- Flood studies or flood mapping, and other mapping activities that are not part of a risk assessment;
- Risk assessments, technical assistance, studies, or workshops not resulting in a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan;
- Information dissemination activities that exceed 10 percent of the total planning application; and
- Limited revisions and amendments that do not result in comprehensive hazard mitigation plan update.

Ineligible project activities (see FY 2011 HMA Program Guidance, pages 11-18):

- Projects that do not reduce the risk to people, homes, neighborhoods, structures, or infrastructure.
- Phased or partial projects, including engineering designs, feasibility or drainage studies not integral to the project.
- Projects for which actual physical work such as groundbreaking, demolition or construction has occurred prior to grant award.
- Major flood control / erosion projects such as the construction or repair of dikes, levees, floodwalls, seawalls, groins, jetties, or dams, waterway channelization, and beach nourishment or re-nourishment.
- Water quality infrastructure projects.
- Projects that address ecological issues related to land and forest management.
- Preparedness measures, response and communication equipment, and warning and alert notification systems.
- Stand-alone emergency generators and related equipment.
- Demolition / rebuild projects (also called mitigation reconstruction).
- Projects that solely address maintenance or repairs of existing structures, facilities or infrastructure.
- Projects that solely address a manmade hazard.

EMD will use a pre-application letter-of-intent process, FEMA's on-line *eGrants* application system, and supplemental information (e.g., NFIP and Growth Management Act compliance) to prioritize sub-applications. According to federal law, each state is guaranteed at least \$500,000 for eligible applications; remaining eligible applications compete nationally for remaining funds.

See <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4225> for FY 2011 HMA program guidance.

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